

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 12, 2007.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 8 has been amended to more clearly define one of the features of the present invention. More specifically, Claim 8 has been amended to recite a feature, such as that shown in Applicant's Figure 1, in which each arcuate groove 3a, of the arcuate curved main groove 3 "is defined between a concave side edge and a convex side edge." For example, as can be seen in Figure 1, the arcuate groove in the upper portion of this figure, indicated by reference number 3a (to the right of main groove 1), includes a "concave side edge" on its right side and a "convex side edge" on its left side. Accordingly, as these claimed features are clearly shown in Figure 1, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §112, first paragraph, rejection of Claim 8.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (a) and (b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-59711 (hereinafter JP '711). Claims 2-4 have been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claims 1, 6 and 8-10, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the features of the present invention. More specifically, JP '711 fails to disclose a pneumatic tire

including, *inter alia*, an arcuate curved main groove provided on each side of a straight main groove, wherein each arcuate curved main groove includes “side walls which are curved parallel to each other,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

One example of an embodiment of the tire recited in Claim 1 is shown in Applicant's Figure 1, which includes straight main groove 1 and an arcuate curved main groove 3 on each side of the straight main groove 1. Figure 1 also shows one example of how the arcuate curved main groove 3 can include side walls which are curved parallel to each other, while simultaneously being formed to be in a see-through state, as defined in Claim 1. Such a configuration results in a tire in which the generation of cavity noise is reduced or suppressed, while remarkable draining performance is maintained. Further details of such benefits are described in the present Specification in paragraphs [0009] through [0013].

In contrast, the tire of JP '711 lacks, *inter alia*, the claimed arcuate curved main grooves that each include "side walls which are curved parallel to each other," as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Referring to Figures 1-3 of JP '711, the Examiner equated grooves 10A and 10B with the claimed arcuate curved main groove. However, as can be seen in Figure 2, which shows grooves 10A and 10B, and Figure 3 of JP '711, which shows an enlarged portion of groove 10B, grooves 10A and 10B do not include side walls which are curved parallel to each other. Accordingly, one of effects of the present invention, in which cavity noise generation is buffered, cannot be achieved in JP '711. Thus, because all of the features of independent Claim 1 are not disclosed in JP '711, Applicant respectfully requests

the withdrawal of this §102 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 6 and 8-10 under JP '711.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP '711 in view of JP 6-270609 (hereinafter JP '609). Claims 2-4 have been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claims 1 and 5-10, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For the reasons discussed above in response to the §102 rejection under JP '711, Applicant respectfully submits that JP '711 does not disclose or suggest the tire of Claim 1 that includes, *inter alia*, arcuate curved main grooves that each include side walls which are curved parallel to each other, as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Further, Applicant also submits that the JP '609 does not remedy this deficiency, nor was it relied upon as such by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 5-10.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over DE 4239475 (hereinafter DE '475) in view of JP '711 and JP '609. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. However, with respect to Claims 1 and 5-10, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of the present invention as defined in amended independent Claim 1. More specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a

pneumatic tire that includes, *inter alia*, a combination of an arcuate main groove, circumferential auxiliary grooves, and a plurality of inclined grooves, where the arcuate curved main grooves are circumferentially formed to be in a see-through state, as recited in Claim 1.

In the present Specification, arcuate curved main grooves formed in a "see-through" state are defined as being grooves in which "when the arc-like curved main grooves 3 are seen in the tire circumferential direction, the arc-like curved main grooves 3 can be seen without obstruction to view caused by left and right groove walls." *See* Specification, paragraph [0027]. Arc-like curved main grooves 3 show one example of such grooves that are "circumferentially formed" to be in a "see-through state." In contrast, it does not appear that the left-hand side of the Figure 9 embodiment of DE '475 can be considered as including grooves that are "circumferentially-formed to be in a see-through state," as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Instead, it appears as though the side walls of the groove on the left-hand side of Figure 9 of DE '475 would obstruct the views along the circumferential direction. Thus, the tire of DE '475 is not one that can bring about a result that while the generation of cavity noise is suppressed or reduced, a high level of draining noise can be maintained. Further, the other cited references do not remedy the lack of the claimed arcuate curved main grooves that are "circumferentially-formed to be in a see-through state," as recited in amended independent Claim 1. Accordingly, as all of the features of independent Claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references, Applicant respectfully requests

the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of independent Claim 1 and associated dependent Claims 5-10.

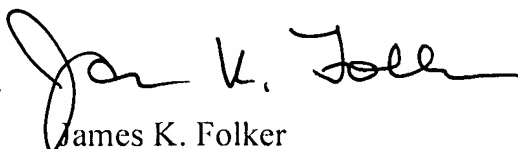
Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over DE 4239475 (hereinafter DE '475) in view of JP '711 and JP '609 and further in view of JP 03074208 (hereinafter JP '208). Claim 2 has been cancelled, without prejudice, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to this claim. However, with respect to Claim 1, which is the claim to which the subject matter of now-cancelled Claim 2 has been added, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner asserts that DE '475 teaches grooves being formed in a "see-through state." However, Applicant respectfully asserts that DE '475 does not disclose the claimed "arcuate curved" main grooves that are each "composed of a plurality of arcuate grooves," as recited in independent Claim 1. In contrast, as can be seen in Figure 1 of JP '208, grooves 4 are rectangular zig-zag grooves, and do not includes any curved portions that can be considered as the claimed "arcuate curved" main grooves that are each "composed of a plurality of arcuate grooves." Thus, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this §103 rejection.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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